



Iowa Farm to School and Early Care | Golden Root Award

APPLICATION PREVIEW

Center-Based Early Childhood Program

10 Categories Included

- **CATEGORY 1:** OFFER LOCALLY GROWN ITEMS DURING BREAKFAST AND/OR LUNCH
- **CATEGORY 2:** KIDS PARTICIPATE IN TASTE TESTS THAT FEATURE LOCALLY GROWN FOOD
- **CATEGORY 3:** KIDS INTERACT WITH A FARMER THROUGH FIELD TRIPS TO FARMS THAT GROW FOOD AND/OR THROUGH FARMER VISITS
- **CATEGORY 4:** FARM TO ECE PROMOTIONS ARE DONE THROUGHOUT THE ECE ENVIRONMENT
- **CATEGORY 5:** TEACHERS INTEGRATE FARM TO ECE INTO IOWA EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS
- **CATEGORY 6:** ECE PROGRAM HAS EDIBLE GARDENS
- **CATEGORY 7:** KIDS PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON COOKING AND FOOD ACTIVITIES UTILIZING LOCAL FOOD WITH CHEFS, TEACHERS, FAMILIES, NUTRITION STAFF, OR OTHER LEADERS
- **CATEGORY 8:** FAMILIES AND/OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM
- **CATEGORY 9:** ECE STAFF (I.E.: TEACHERS, NUTRITION STAFF, ADMINISTRATION, ETC.) PARTICIPATE IN FARM TO ECE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING
- **CATEGORY 10:** FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION LANGUAGE IS ADOPTED INTO A POLICY OR PROCEDURE (I.E.: WELLNESS POLICY)

Application Type: I'm completing this application is on behalf of a Center-Based Early Childhood Program

- Yes
- No

Contact Information

- Name of Center-Based Early Childhood Program:
- Primary Contact Name:
- Primary Contact Position/Role:
- Primary Contact Email:
- Primary Contact Phone Number:
- Program Address:
- Total number of kids enrolled:



General Program Information

1. To be considered for the Golden Root Award, organizations must be actively participating in a USDA Child Nutrition Program. Does your organization currently participate in a Program? (yes/no)
2. To the best of your knowledge, what year did you begin farm to ECE initiatives?
3. There is no formal definition of local food. What is your site's definition of "local" when procuring local foods for meals or snacks?
4. Who are the top three supporters of farm to ECE at your site?
 - a. Center Director
 - b. Educators
 - c. Families
 - d. Administration
 - e. Community Partners
 - f. Food Service Staff
 - g. Not listed: please share here (enter text)

The Outstanding Award

There is an additional award category, the Outstanding Award, which recognizes the school building with the outstanding farm to school program showing the most growth. Three Outstanding Awards are presented annually, one for each award category. Outstanding Award applicants are asked to answer 1 additional question (300 word limit), sharing your site's farm to school story, the motivation and purpose of your program, and the impacts on kids and communities. We also ask that you share three pictures showcasing your work. We want you to brag on your work!

In addition to receiving a certificate and virtual badge, Outstanding Award winners will receive:

1. Free registration and lodging for two staff to attend the [2024 Community Food System and Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Conference Conference](#) hosted by the Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Coalition and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, FFED; an award ceremony will take place to celebrate award winners in-person as part of the conference.
2. Free registration for two staff to attend the [2024 5210 Conference](#), hosted by the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative.
3. Recognition at the Iowa State Fair!

2024 Outstanding Award Categories

- 2024 Outstanding School of the Year
- 2024 Outstanding In-Home Provider of the Year
- 2024 Outstanding Early Care Center of the Year

- Would you like to apply for an Outstanding Award? (yes/no)
- To apply for the Outstanding Award, please tell us your school building's farm to school story and why you should receive this award! Describe the motivation and purpose of your program, impacts on kids and communities-brag on your work! **300 word limit.**
- Please upload 3 pictures that showcase your work and could be shared, if selected, with the public.
 - Upload image 1 here.
 - Upload image 2 here.
 - Upload image 3 here.



CATEGORY 1: OFFER LOCALLY GROWN ITEMS DURING BREAKFAST, AND/OR LUNCH.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to local food procurement. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many days did your site offer locally grown food items on the menu? (If you do not have any data on how many times local food was offered, please write N/A)
 - a. Of these days, how many days did you serve local breakfast?
 - b. Of these days, how many days did you serve local lunch?
 - c. Of these days, how many days did you serve local snacks?
2. Please describe how your site offered locally grown food items on the menu. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. If applicable, please list any grant funding you received this year to support local food purchasing.
4. If applicable, please list any specific farms or food hubs that you have partnered with throughout the year.
5. Have you started any new local sourcing initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
7. What's something you're proud of regarding your local sourcing initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of all locally grown items served
- Distributor order or delivery form indicating local items
- Menu with featured local food notated
- Photograph of meal with local items

Or, provide a link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 2: KIDS PARTICIPATE IN TASTE TESTS THAT FEATURE LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to taste testing of local foods. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many total times did kids at your site participate in taste tests with locally grown food this year?* (If you do not have any data on taste tests, please write N/A)
2. What specific foods were taste tested?
3. Please describe how kids at your site participated in taste tests this year. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
4. Have you started any new taste testing initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.



6. What's something you're proud of regarding your taste testing initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of all taste tested items
- Name of farm which taste tested items were sourced
- Taste test survey results
- Quotes of kids' opinions about the taste test(s)
- Photograph of taste tests

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 3: KIDS INTERACT WITH A FARMER THROUGH FIELD TRIPS TO FARMS THAT GROW FOOD AND/OR THROUGH FARMER VISITS.**DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?**

Please answer the following questions related to farmer engagement. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many in-person and virtual farmer interactions did kids participate in this year? (If you do not have any data on farmer interactions, please write N/A)
2. Please describe how kids at your site interacted with farmers this year, including names of specific farms/farmers, if possible. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new farmer partnership initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your farmer partnership initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of farmers with whom kids interacted, including their farm name
- List of activities done with a farm or farmer visit
- Photograph of a farm field trip or farmer visit

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 4: FARM TO ECE PROMOTIONS ARE DONE THROUGHOUT THE ECE ENVIRONMENT**DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?**

Please answer the following questions related to farm to ECE promotion. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.



1. How many total farm to ECE promotions did your site conduct this year? *(If you do not have any data on farm to ECE promotions, please write N/A)
2. Please describe how your site promoted farm to ECE and local food items this year (i.e.: printed or electronic materials shared with families, on the menu, social media engagement, etc). Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new promotion initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your promotion initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- Sample of farm to ECE promotional materials used
- Photograph of posted materials

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 5: TEACHERS INTEGRATE FARM TO ECE INTO IOWA EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to curriculum. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many farm to ECE standards-based lessons were taught at your site this year? *(If you do not have any data on curriculum integration, please write N/A).
2. Please describe how your site integrated farm to ECE into Iowa Early Learning Standards this year {share themes, lesson integration}. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new curriculum integration initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your farm to school curriculum integration initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of lesson names integrating farm to ECE activities
- List of Iowa Early Learning Standards addressed through farm to ECE-integrated lessons
- Photograph of farm to ECE-integrated lesson being taught
- Kids' work from a farm to ECE-integrated lesson

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.



CATEGORY 6: ECE PROGRAM HAS EDIBLE GARDENS.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Answer the following questions related to edible gardens. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many edible gardens are on-site? * (If you do not have any data on edible gardens, please write N/A.
 - a. *NOTE: Edible gardens mean growing at least one edible plant on-site. Edible gardens can include in ground or raised beds, a greenhouse with edible plants, and pots of herbs or other edible plants.*
 - i. *Examples: Five raised beds in the same on-site area is ONE garden*
 - ii. *Three teachers each with their own set of indoor edible plants is THREE gardens*
2. Please describe your site's edible gardens. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new garden initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your garden initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- Photograph of garden
- Photograph of children engaged in educational activities in the garden
- Schedule of class time spent in the garden
- List of educational activities taught in the garden
- Garden maintenance schedule
- Garden safety procedures
- Menu featuring garden produce

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 7: KIDS PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON COOKING AND FOOD ACTIVITIES UTILIZING LOCAL FOOD WITH CHEFS, TEACHERS, FAMILIES, NUTRITION STAFF, OR OTHER LEADERS.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to local food activities. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many hands-on cooking and food activities utilizing local food did kids at your site participate in this year? * (If you do not have any data on hands on cooking and food activities, please write N/A)
2. Please describe how kids at your site participated in cooking and food activities this year. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new food education initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No



4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your food education initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of cooking and food activities that occurred at your site
- Photograph of kids preparing food
- Recipe(s) kids prepared
- List of community volunteers (i.e. chefs, family members) who helped lead food activities

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 8: FAMILIES AND/OR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED IN THE FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION PROGRAM.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to community involvement. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. How many farm to ECE activities at your site were families and/or community members involved in this year? *
(If you do not have any data on community involvement, please write N/A)
2. Please describe how families and community members were involved in the farm to ECE program this year.
Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new community involvement initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your community involvement initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of activities in which families or community members were involved
- Family/community outreach material (i.e.: flier, newsletter article, etc.)
- Photograph of family/community involvement
- List of families and community members who were involved in farm to ECE activities

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 9: ECE STAFF (I.E.: TEACHERS, NUTRITION STAFF, DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION, ETC.) PARTICIPATE IN FARM TO ECE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING.

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to farm to ECE training. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.



1. How many farm to ECE professional development trainings did staff (i.e. teachers, nutrition staff, director, administration) at your site participate in this year? (If you do not have any data on professional development training, please write N/A)
2. Please describe how staff participated in farm to ECE professional development training this year (some examples may include: annual Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Conference, Virtual Meet-Ups, Department of Education Farm to School Webinars, Go NAP SACC Trainings and Assessments, etc.). Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new farm to school training initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your farm to school training initiatives?

Please share at least ONE of the following documents.

- List of trainings that occurred, with farm to ECE relevant pieces notated
- Training agenda
- Material provided at training
- Photograph of training
- List of all staff who participated in training

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.

CATEGORY 10: FARM TO EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION LANGUAGE IS ADOPTED INTO A POLICY OR PROCEDURE (I.E.: WELLNESS POLICY).

DO YOU HAVE DATA TO ENTER RELATED TO THIS CATEGORY?

Please answer the following questions related to farm to ECE and policy. Include data and information from **May 1, 2023-April 30, 2024**.

1. Please write "yes" or "no": farm to ECE language is adopted in a policy or procedure at your site.
2. Please describe how farm to ECE is incorporated into a site wide policy or procedure. Please be detailed in your response to give us a clear picture of your efforts!
3. Have you started any new policy initiatives this year?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
4. (If yes) Describe your new initiatives and any challenges and successes you've encountered.
5. What's something you're proud of regarding your policy initiatives?

Please upload the following document.

- Copy of policy or procedure with farm to ECE language notated

Or, provide link to documentation on web-based file (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox). Please ensure that all files are clearly labeled and settings are enabled to allow file downloads.



CONFIRMATION

I attest that I have permission to use the attached images in email communications, websites, and print materials promoting the practice of farm to ECE. By typing my name below, I attest that I have on file, and can produce, if requested, release forms for all minor children who can be identified in the attached images.

- I agree to these terms
 - Yes
 - No
- Name of person submitting this application:

All information provided is true to the extent of my knowledge. I understand that the Golden Root Award Committee reserves the right to request additional information or documentation to clarify or verify farm to school and early care activities.

- I agree to these terms
 - Yes
 - No
- Name of person submitting this application: